



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

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### Notice of Proposed Changes in The Regulations of the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners

#### Proposed Regulations - FAQ

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#### 1. What is the purpose of the proposed regulations? What will this regulation do?

**12 AAC 28.940. Dental licensure by examination.** The proposed regulations will allow additional options to qualify for an initial dental license, removing the time frame for a mannequin based exam, and adding dental specialty along with its definition to clarify a pathway to dental licensure to allow dentists who have completed two or more years of dental specialty training to apply for a license without having to take a regional licensing exam.

It will create another pathway to initial licensure by allowing at least one year of postgraduate training after dental school in an accredited program approved by the board to substitute for a regional licensing exam. The purpose is to open dental licensure to a greater number of qualified candidates and to join a growing number of states accepting this pathway to licensure.

It will change Alaska's initial exam requirements to become more in line with most states who are now accepting a non-live patient (simulation) psychomotor exams for a dental license.

The addition of the words "dental specialty" along with its definition, is an attempt to clarify a pathway to dental licensure under 12 ACC 28.940(b)(8)(C) which was originally intended to allow dentists who have completed two or more years of dental specialty training to apply for a license without having to take a regional licensing exam. This change is for clarification of original intent only. This change will more clearly give dental specialists a pathway to licensure in Alaska.

**12 AAC 28.951. Dental licensure by credentials.** The proposed regulations will eliminate outdated regulations. The sections of 12 AAC 28.951 that deal with contents of an exam a credentialing candidate took five or more years ago have nothing to do with their current competency. The required exam components in subsection (e) would probably not hold up under legal scrutiny as some of the subject areas do not even represent current exam contents

and to the board's knowledge the exams credentialing candidates took years ago have never been checked to see if they satisfy 12 AAC 28.951(e).

This will repeal outdated, unused, and legally problematic language from current regulations.

**12 AAC 28.958. Temporary military courtesy licenses.** To implement statutory changes made under Section 1 and 2, Chapter 29, SLA 2021 (SB 21). The proposed regulations will create a temporary courtesy licenses for an active duty military member or spouse of an active duty military member of the armed forces of the United States to practice dentistry or dental hygiene who meets the requirements. The regulation allows for an expedited temporary licensing pathway for those in the military and their spouses.

This regulation change will allow military members and their spouses the ability to quickly practice dentistry or dental hygiene in Alaska. Military members and spouses will still need to complete the full application and review process for permanent licensure, however this will allow them an option to begin working while they complete the permanent licensure process.

**12 AAC 28.990. Definitions.** The proposed regulations will add a definition for “dental specialty”.

## **2. What are the costs to comply with the proposed regulations?**

\$100 application fee; \$100 temporary courtesy license fee.

## **3. When will the regulations be effective?**

After the public comment deadline, comments received are compiled and given to the Board for consideration. The Board may adopt the regulations as proposed/publicly noticed, may amend and adopt them, choose to take no action, or may withdraw the proposed regulations in part or in its whole. After Board action, the adopted regulations goes to Department of Law (DOL) for final review/approval. DOL either approves or disapproves regulations. Once approved by DOL, it goes to the Lt. Governor for filing. Regulation takes effect on the 30th day after they have been filed by the Lt. Governor.

Do you have a question that is not answered here? Please email [RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov](mailto:RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov) so it can be added.